

12 June, 1946

"PANAY INCIDENT"

The unfortunate incident of the bombing of the United States gunboat "Panay" which occurred on December 12, 1937 when our Army was invading HAILU, together with the "sensational" reports of this incident, certainly enraged the hitherto pacific sentiment of the American people. Although the timely disposition of this incident by the Imperial government greatly smoothed out the incident, the prospects of the revival of the boycott movement and the progress of the present situation leaves the situation still grave.

Moreover, newspaper comments regarding the "Panay Incident" are as follows:

Washington Post (December 15, 1937)

1. In regards to the "Panay Incident" the United States Government's protest should be the strongest one since the protest made to Germany during the World War. Japan must immediately apologize and pay indemnities.
2. The United States Government, because of its lax foreign policy, shares the responsibility for this incident. United States public opinion is not represented by professional pacifists alone.
3. There are some who insist on the severance of diplomatic relations with Japan and there are others who insist on the concentration of U. S. planes in Hawaii. However, such drastic steps are deemed unnecessary because of the moderate attitude of the Japanese government. However, if the U.S. Congress should decide that the "Neutrality Law" is unapplicable to this case, it will serve as a preparation for later economic sanctions as well as stopping the Japanese military cliques from foolishly violating our interests in China.

Herald Tribune (December 16, 1937 from Walter Lippman's comment "The U. S.'s protest to Japan.")

1. In regard to this incident, the claims by the U.S. are claimed to be based on their legitimate rights is not concerned with the Anti-war Pact, the Nine Powers Treaty, etc.
2. In Brussels, a great problem was discussed with no practical action taken. This time, the problem is small but the U.S. is determined to take concrete actions.
3. Japan must not be misled by the group of American isolationists who assert that the U.S. must withdraw from the Far East, and thereby follow Germany's footsteps. There is no alternative for the U.S. other than making calm and moderate claims as were made by the President with firm decision.